

CLASS WAR

Irregular
Issue 2, Autumn 2022

SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRANCALLY TWO



A few miles to the north of the town of Youghal, County Cork, but on the County Waterford side of the Blackwater River, stands Strancally Castle. Traditionally a stronghold of the Fitzgerald earls of Desmond, there is a story that it was at one time in the hands of Spaniards who lured the local landowners to a banquet and then dropped them through a trap door to their deaths. This would seem to be a warning for the new owners of the castle and estate who imagine themselves as latter day aristocrats.

They recently got rid of two Spanish CNT comrades who tried to challenge the conditions of servitude they were subjected to whilst working for these super-rich landlords. Their palatial place of employment became a virtual prison during the Covid-19 lockdown, compounded by long hours of work for people who imagine themselves to be nineteenth century Lord and Lady. Like Montjuïc, the infamous fortress above Barcelona where so many anarchist activists were imprisoned, Strancally stands to write a new chapter in the oppression of workers and anarchists if we let it happen.

We extend our full support and solidarity to our two CNT comrades and ask the wider anarchist movement to do the same.

INSIDE: STRANCALLY TWO DEMANDS, 'COST OF LIVING' CRISIS, JUST BOOKS PUBLISHING, 100 YEARS OF THE IWA...

WELCOME TO CLASS WAR!

Welcome to the second edition of Class War, the new anarcho-syndicalist bulletin from members of Organise! in the Republic of Ireland. Our comrades in the north have been putting out Black Star regularly now for a year and a half and we are hoping to increase the regularity of Class War in the near future.

The name of our bulleting is inspired by Camillo Berneri's newspaper *Guerre de Classe* which was edited by him in Italy and then, in exile, in Spain until his assassination on May 5th 1937. Berneri along with Francesco Barbieri were taken out of their

apartment by a dozen plainclothes men with red armbands and police. The corpses of the two Italian anarchists were found riddled with bullets - assassinated by Stalinist counter-revolutionaries during the Spanish Civil War.

Our focus is unashamedly working class. We would refute however that there is anything 'reductionist' about asserting this. We see class as the fundamental cleavage in society and the working class, as a whole, as the group which has a real interest in the destruction of capitalist exploitation and oppression and the replacement of states, nations and corporations with a new world based on equality, freedom and libertarian communism.

We do not hold with stereotypical notions of a male white industrial working class. We see capitalism as a racialised, and (while patriarchy is older than capitalism) patriarchal system. Nor do we idealise the working class, we are kept in ignorance and fed a diet of misinformation in order to keep us ignorant, brutalised and divided. We are deliberately distracted from our common interests and conned into the mistaken belief that we have interests in common with our 'native' bosses and politicians.

For us the working class consists in the vast majority of humanity and in this majority lies the hope for a social revolution that can save us all from the barbarism and destruction of capitalist greed and war.

STRANCALLY 2: THEIR DEMANDS



The wealthy owners of Strancally Castle in are facing a long list of demands from their domestic and maintenance workers.

The demands are as follows:

- Against unfair dismissal.
- Absence of certain payslips.
- Amounts paid not shown in the payslips.
- Unlawful deduction of wages.
- Non-payment of salaries.
- Non-payment in lieu of notice.

- Mandatory overtime above the maximum allowed.
- Lack of proper weekly rest period.
- Core terms of employment containing false or misleading information.

The workers, supported by the libertarian union of the Marina Alta region in Spain, claim that they were fired for requesting a salary increase and for raising the issue of excessive overtime on the private estate, and have announced that they will fight for reinstatement.

The anarcho-syndicalist confederation CNT-AIT and its sister organisations of the International Workers' Association have shown their solidarity with the struggling workers, and have notified the company of the initiation of an official union dispute and the organization of a range of solidarity actions. Organise! has also shown its support for the workers' demands.

Inspectors from the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) have already confirmed payslip irregularities, certifying that the payment for overtime was made in breach of the Irish Payment of Wages Act.

The family company of the owners of the castle will have to facilitate the pay slips not delivered to the workers and regularize their salaries and taxes, and has begun a process of reviewing the payments to its large number of "domestic" workers.

In a further act of arrogance, the powerful owners of Strancally Castle, Gianni and Michael Alen-Buckley, have hired a lawyer who is appealing against the complaints of the workers, alleging that they are "not well founded", so the rest of the workers' demands are pending adjudication by the Workplace Relations Commission.

Gianni Alen-Buckley, born Giancarla Maria Gerarda Forte, and her husband Michael are facing the self-organised working class action of anarcho-syndicalists, who have dedicated more than a century of history to the fight against capitalism and for a society free of exploitation.



JUST BOOKS PUBLISHING FIRST TWO TITLES AVAILABLE!

Just Books Publishing, recently set up by the Just Books Collective (an integral part of the work of Organise!), has successfully released it's first two titles.

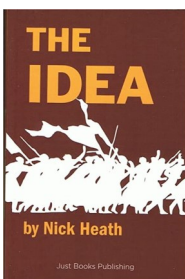
Constructive Anarchism
Gregori Petrovich Maximoff

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The first is a reprint of Gregori Petrovich Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the Anarcho-Syndicalist International Workers Association – founded in Berlin in 1922. This is the first time the entire work by Maximoff has been in print in English since the original edition appeared in 1952. Just Books Publishing have included two other related historical documents - *The Platform* and *The Reply*.

isbn 9781739723705

£11.99



The second title is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood. Includes artwork from Clifford Harper.

isbn 9781739723712

£18.99

Available from Just Books at: <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/>

BARE MINIMUM WAGE...

Wages are down, in real terms since, from the average earnings of the 1990s and 2000s. Capitalist profiteers have been driving the cost of living up while wages have been driven down. Meanwhile the government has been cutting the minimum wage on behalf of the rich - the class our 'representative democracy' really represents.

The latest 80 cent 'increase' to the minimum wage is not an increase at all! Last year inflation was 5.5% and the minimum wage was 'increased' by only 2.9%. A whole 30 cent to cover increases in our cost of living. Inflation was reported as reaching 9.6% at the end of July and things are only getting worse. Showing our anger on the streets, marching passively from A to B and listening to empty words from politicians and would-be politicians is not enough. Waiting on 'leadership' from Trade Union bureaucrats has gotten us nowhere.

We need a general strike - not a general election.

Organise!

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Class War

Twitter coming soon!

Black Star

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Dearg is Dubh

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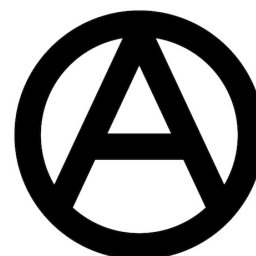
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RALLY AGAINST THE COST OF LIVING - RALLY AGAINST PROFITEERS



Thousands marched to express their anger at the latest attacks on the working class and the poor that is going by the misnomer the 'cost of living crisis'.

The rich don't have a crisis. Energy companies, landlords, supermarkets don't have a crisis either. Politicians don't have a crisis. What we have is an onslaught on our standards of living, for many our very ability to survive. Inflation is outstripping wages, our bills are through the roof and the 'housing crisis' is still with us. Profits are also through the roof and they tell us to tighten our belts!

Members of Organise! joined the thousands who marched as did other anarchists in Cork, Sligo, Dublin, Limerick, and Galway. Politicians turned out for the photo op and to secure more votes for the future - but they can't, and won't help us. We aren't about grovelling to our betters to sort things out for us anyway. The only solution is direct action by workers to force wage increases on our profiteering bosses. Once we start winning there we can turn our attention to getting rid of the whole rotten system and replacing it with a society based on need not greed!

Build An Anarchist Alternative!

Before it's too late...



100 YEARS OF THE ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST INTERNATIONAL

We anarcho-syndicalists continue to fight for a more just tomorrow, because we carry a new world in our hearts, and that world is growing at this moment.

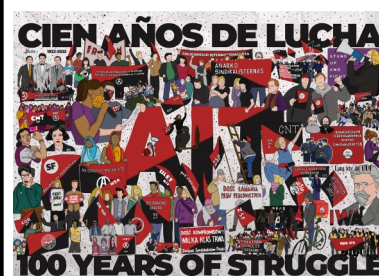


This December the 28th Congress of the International Workers Association (IWA) will be held in Alcoy in Spain. This December also marks the centenary of the International, founded in Berlin at its first Congress from 25th December to 2nd January 2022. Commemorative events celebrating the centenary of the International will take place in Alcoy from the 5th to the 10th of December while the centenary congress itself will take place from the 6th to the 10th.

IWA sections from Australia, Norway, Colombia, Sweden, Austria, Russia, Poland, Brazil, Serbia and Montenegro, France, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Slovakia and Spain will attend with groups of Friends of the IWA from countries such as Bulgaria, the Philippines, India, Chile, Pakistan and the United States have also been invited.

The Local headquarters of the Alcoy Various (General) Union section of the CNT-AIT will provide the meeting space of the upcoming Congress. The city, which in 1873 was the headquarters of the General Committee of the Spanish Section of the 1st Workers' International. The first 100 years of struggle and resistance of the IWA will be commemorated in theatre, concerts, talks and other activities.

The importance of this Congress is centred around the commemoration of a century of solidarity and comradeship among workers all over the world who joined forces and created the AIT in order to achieve the moral and material improvement of the world proletariat, and the creation of a society in freedom, without exploitation, or hierarchies of any kind.



Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland who take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked over by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, and sick of a greedy bosses and landlords getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy, racism and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in the North and members and contacts in Cork, Dublin and other parts of the Republic where we are actively building our membership. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to:

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